

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 and 41 have been withdrawn from consideration via the response to the Restriction Requirement on December 27, 2006 and are hereby cancelled from the present application. Claims 42 and 43 have been added. The claims remaining in the application are 38-40, 42, and 43.

Drawings

A copy of the formal drawings are submitted herewith. Approval by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction

Claims 1-37 and 41 were withdrawn from consideration via a Restriction Requirement on December 27, 2006. Applicant confirms this election without traverse and hereby cancels claims 1-37 and 41 from the present application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action has rejected claims 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takizawa (U.S. 5,512,234). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action has rejected claims 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa (U.S. 5,512,234) in view of Keogh (U.S. 4,246,335). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In Takizawa the abstract, summary, detailed description, and claims describe the relationship between the extrusion nozzle and the die wheels as having a predetermined gap.

The radial contact die method of the present invention does not require a predetermined gap. This gap varies to compensate for geometry variations in the roller and the die, fluctuations in mass flow rate of the resin, and roller speed. This is provided by the gimbal mechanism as well as having the roller loaded with respect to the die by pressure instead of a fixed mechanical connections. See page 4, lines 5-26 of the specification.

In the detailed description of Takizawa, column 5, paragraph 5, the upper half of the die is said to have an arcuate surface with curvature virtually equal that of the die wheel. The hydrodynamic pressure developed between co-radial surfaces will not produce the rapid pressure rise that results from the converging effect of the second land with respect to the roller surface. This additional pressure, in the present invention, enables high fidelity replication. In addition, materials such as polycarbonate which have higher thermal conductivity and smaller heat of fusion than those described (polypropylene) require a rapid flow of the resin into the patterned surface before cooling increases viscosity to a point where poor replication results. The lower half of the Takizawa die is also described in the same manner. The first land represents a diverging condition with respect to the rotation of the roller. This enables higher under die pressure without leakage and minimized melt recirculation. Recirculation is to be avoided to prevent material thermal degradation.

Takizawa, having been distinguished from the present invention above, does not make the present invention obvious when combined with the first and second land surfaces of Keogh.

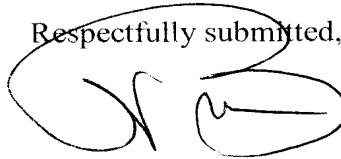
CONCLUSION

Dependent claims not specifically addressed add additional limitations to the independent claims, which have been distinguished from the prior art and are therefore also patentable.

In conclusion, none of the prior art cited by the Office Action discloses the limitations of the claims of the present invention, either individually or in combination. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that additional modifications to the claims are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below for a telephone interview and Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.